

NOT A STAR MUST FALL.



Bound to New Orleans

Camp Stephen Burwick Bay
Louisiana Feb 18th 1863

Dear Mother

I recd a letter from you or rather from Lile and ~~not~~ Garrison had one from you last Tuesday I was very glad to hear from you. the letters we get from home now are very few and scattering. its very strange that you dont get ~~any~~ our letters, for we have written a number but to no purpose. but I guess that they will get to coming more regular in a few days the trouble is they have to pass through so many different hands that they must get lost. When I wrote you last we were at Fiquille we had a fine time while we were there but of course we had to leave when we got in a good place, we staid there just long enough to get recruited up again. if we had staid

there a month longer we would have been so
fat that we could not see out of ~~our~~ our
eyes. we had all we wanted of every thing
"and more too". I ~~was~~ never was so fleshy in
my life as I am now. and Harrison is the
same he is a great deal healthier than he ever was
before. His throat don't trouble him at all as
it used to ~~do~~ when he was at home.
and I never have been ~~a~~ sick a day since
I have been in the army. I think that is doing
well for me. I think our colonel done a good
thing in getting us down here. its a great way
from home I know but it is very healthy here
to what it is in Virginia and another thing
we aint going to ^{have} so much fighting to
do as they have there. for ~~the~~ the rebels here
are mostly conscript men that were forced
into the army and they will not fight
they are deserting most every day and come
into our lines every chance they can get.
They ~~are~~ hold possession of the opposite
side of the bay from us which is about a
mile across they keep well back from
the bay out of range of the gunboats.
We can see them come down to shore a
most every day on horse back only two or

three at a time. we have got four ~~good~~ good
gun boats in the bay and they have none. they had
one a few days ago but they were obliged to blow it
up for fear we would capture it. it was the 'Cotton'.

~~Last~~ Yesterday our company & company B
went up the Bay through the 6 mile Lake
and from that through grand Lake
we were on board of a gunboat.

We expected to have a little skirmish.
it was reported that they were building
a small fort there by a damkie
that escaped from there and Colonel
thought he would stop it.

We didnt see anything only once
~~we~~ the sailors threw three or four
shells into a ~~the~~ sugar house
where there were a few rebel

quarters about the time the
second shell struck the house
the colonel said he could
see them smothering tracks
for the woods that's the
nearest we have come to
getting into a fight. not so
near as some of the boys would

have like to see, we have been
~~being~~ lounging around so long
that they begin to want to see
a little brush, but I am not
particular on that subject.
I don't think we shall have
any chance for it here.

It is rumored that our
company is going to New
Orleans for Provost Grand
all we know about that ~~is~~
the colonel said ~~that~~ the best
looking company should go, it sure
we are the best looking company
and the best drilled in the
regt. that is the accomplishment
that the col. gives us yesterday.

We have been paid off again & just
before we left Vicksburg we got two
months pay a check of \$16.00 and
a ten dollar "green back".

We will be mustered for pay again
in about a week, but probably won't
get in three months and may get
it on the first of March the reg-
pay day. well I must stop write but
give my love to all
Yours Truly